

CLAIMS:

1. A hanger bar for a cathode plate used in electrolytic recovery of metal comprising a corrosion resistant support element adapted for connection to a blade of the cathode plate, at least a portion of said support having an electrically conductive metal cladding
5 affixed thereto.
2. A hanger bar as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support element is constructed from stainless steel.
3. A hanger bar as claimed in claim 1, wherein said support element is hollow.
4. A hanger bar as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the electrically conductive
10 metal cladding is affixed such that it covers the entire exterior of the support element.
5. A hanger bar as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed such that it covers a portion of the support element.
6. A hanger bar as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by an interference fit.
- 15 7. A hanger bar as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by welding.
8. A hanger bar as claimed in claim 7, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode blade by aluminium bronze weld.
- 20 9. A hanger bar as claimed in claim 7, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode blade by silicone bronze weld.
10. A hanger bar as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed to the support element by mechanical and/or chemical fastening.
- 25 11. A hanger bar as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the support element and electrically conductive metal cladding are affixed by coextrusion.
11. A hanger bar as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed to the support element by roll forming.
12. A hanger bar as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the
30 electrically conductive metal cladding extends from the support element to the cathode blade and part way down the cathode blade.

13. A hanger bar as claimed in claim 12, wherein the cladding extends from the support element to a position 30 to 40 mm above the level of electrolyte when the cathode blade is placed in an electrolyte bath.
14. A hanger bar as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the blade is
5 stainless steel.
15. A hanger bar as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the electrically conductive metal is copper.
16. A method of producing a cathode plate for electrolytic recovery of metal comprising providing a cathode blade, connecting a support element to the cathode
10 blade, said element being adapted to support the cathode plate in an electrolytic bath, and affixing a cladding of electrically conductive metal to the support.
17. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the cladding is affixed to the support element after connection of the support element and cathode blade.
18. A method as claimed in claim 16 or claim 17, wherein the cladding is affixed to the
15 support element before connection of the support element to the cathode blade.
19. A method as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by an interference fit.
20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by welding.
- 20 21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode blade by aluminium bronze weld.
22. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is welded to the support element and/or cathode plate by silicone bronze weld.
- 25 23. A method as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 20, wherein the electrically conductive metal cladding is affixed by chemical or mechanical fastening.
24. A method as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 22, wherein the support and electrically conductive metal cladding are affixed by roll forming.
25. A method as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 24, wherein the cathode blade
30 and/or support element are constructed from stainless steel.
26. A method as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 25, wherein the electrically conductive metal is copper.